

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 19-56 remain pending with claims 30-56 being withdrawn. The amendments to claim 19, 24, and 29 are supported by the specification. No new matter is introduced as a result of this Amendment.

Applicants note the Examiner lined through a citation listed on an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) because the particular citation was purportedly not properly descriptive. Applicants submit herewith a new copy of the cited document as well as a new IDS including the document's proper citation. The Examiner's consideration of this document would be greatly appreciated.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite because the phrase "said polymer-platelet particle composite" lacked antecedent basis. In response, claim 29 (and claim 24 from which claim 29 depends) has been amended to accommodate this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 19, 21-24, and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as purportedly obvious based on Speer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,529,833) in view of Okada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,739,007). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants note claim 29 was not included in this rejection. Moreover, independent claims 19 (from which claims 21-23 depend) and 24 (from which claims 25-29 depend) have been amended to include the "platelet particles" feature recited in claim 29. This feature is neither taught nor fairly suggested in the cited patents. Hence, this rejection is overcome and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

* * *

Application No. 10/757,959
Amendment dated January 29, 2007
Reply to Office action dated October 27, 2006

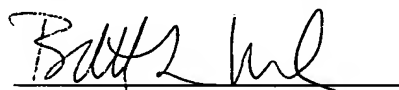
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Claims 19-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as purportedly obvious based on Speer et al. in view of Turner et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,417,262). Applicants also respectfully traverse this rejection.

Turner qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and thus can be disqualified for use as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) if the subject matter of Turner and the claimed invention "were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person." See MPEP 2146. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that U.S. Pat. No. 6,417,262 (Turner et al.) and the present invention were, at the time the invention was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to Eastman Chemical Co. This rejection is this overcome and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

In summary, Applicants believe the application to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection(s), enter the above amendment, remove all rejections, and pass the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



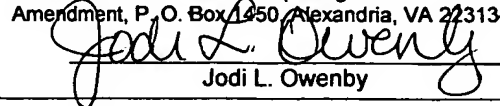
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Jan. 29, 2007
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Jodi L. Owenby

January 29, 2007
Date